

Mr. Speaker, in this connection, I would note that the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe recently received a disturbing report from the well known international humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders, drawing attention to the deteriorating human rights situation in Chechnya. This report, "Civilians Targeted," documented the systematic bombing and killing of civilians by the Russian military in Chechnya, which, according to the report, has actually increased following President Yeltsin's announced peace initiative in March.

I would list a few of the activities engaged in by the Russian military, as witnessed by Doctors Without Borders teams.

Whole villages, including hospitals, schools and mosques, continue to be targeted, in blatant violation of the Geneva Conventions and other international agreements, to which Russia is a signatory.

The Russian military extorts money from Russian civilians in exchange for safe passage out of villages under attack.

Newly secured towns and villages are systematically looted and cattle are either killed or stolen.

Civilians are systematically denied the right to humanitarian assistance and humanitarian relief organizations are denied access to the areas in greatest need, often long after a military offensive is over.

The Russian military has consistently failed to respect the neutrality of hospitals and clinics, both in areas of intense military activity in the center of the country and in the capital Grozny, where the Doctors Without Borders hospital is under regular sniper fire.

These are a few of the blatant violations of accepted rules of warfare and humanitarian conduct cited in the report.

I think we can safely assume that Mr. Yeltsin's advisors have not provided him with a Russian language copy of the Doctors Without Borders report on his army's actions in Chechnya. There certainly have been indications that the President's advisors and military commanders have not been supplying him with entirely accurate information regarding the state of affairs in that war-torn region.

However, I have yet to hear anyone doubt Mr. Yeltsin's personal courage. Perhaps he will leave the secure confines of the Severny airport on the outskirts of Grozny and see what sort of peace his military is promoting in Chechnya.

I wish him a safe and instructive trip.

MEMORIAL DAY, 1996

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, Memorial Day leaves few hearts unmoved in recalling the sacrifices made by brave men and women who died in the defense of freedom and democracy. Memorial Day is not about war or peace, nor is it about a battle or an armistice. Memorial Day is about people—those who have lived, and those who have died.

There are no words to adequately describe the supreme sacrifice made by brave Americans who have died in the defense of our country. Words in the context of why we honor

their memory, pale in comparison to the ultimate deeds that men and women have done for those of us now living in a free world.

What we can do for them, is to sustain the memories of their heroism—with respect, with reverence, and with our heartfelt admiration. Humble words can never repay the debt we owe these brave men and women, yet we can strive to keep faith with them and to uphold their vision of righteousness, which led them into battle and to their final sacrifice. We are, after all, the caretakers of their memory.

The determination and courage shown by countless Americans who have fought and died in battle, is symbolized in a myriad of monuments and memorials, each commemorating the deeds of untold Americans whose remains sanctify the soil throughout the world. Those who have died and those who are still missing deserve our perpetual contemplation.

President Lincoln knew this when he dedicated those hallowed grounds at Gettysburg on that cold November day in 1863.

We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that a nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but they can never forget what they did here.

In World War I, America made the world safe for democracy and helped create a promising new world from the ashes of defeat. In World War II, faced with the single greatest threat to civilization the world had ever known, magnificent young Americans fought to extinguish the flame of tyranny throughout the world. America provided freedom loving people mired in a dark sea of despair, a beacon of hope and faith sustaining their anticipation of victory over oppression.

In Korea and Vietnam, Americans helped stem the tide of totalitarianism, which directly led to the demise of Communism and our ultimate victory in the cold war. Today, America is the guardian of democracy. Americans continue to demonstrate our resolve as the sentinel of freedom in Lebanon, Grenada, the Persian Gulf, Haiti, Somalia and the Balkans.

It is up to us the living, the beneficiaries of their sacrifice, to commemorate the deeds of those whom we confer the epithet of patriot.

Those who have served in combat understand the unique experience of war. Each has seen the devastation of property and the horror of death. Each has experienced the sadness of the loss of a friend and understands the grief of families who have lost a loved one. To this day, many share in the anguish of those who don't know the fate of a friend or a loved one missing in action. We all stand together as comrades in arms.

How can we convey our appreciation for the meaning of this day to those who have never served?

Education connects future generations of Americans with the battles fought by their parents and their grandparents. Each generation must be taught that the willingness of some to sacrifice their lives so that others might live in freedom, is the eternal legacy of all who have honorably served our country in wars past.

For it is this history which teaches us that brave Americans who were willing to give their

lives for freedom and democracy, did so for a cause they considered infinitely more important than life. None volunteered to die. Each volunteered to defend the values which brave men and women have always been willing to die for. Those values passed on to each generation of Americans are to advocate honor, to strengthen the family, and to defend our country and our flag.

Memorial Day is a national day of respect. As we honor the memory of our Nation's veterans and war heroes who are no longer with us, let us pledge that their lives and their sacrifice shall not have been offered in vain, but will be remembered by us all forever.

TRIBUTE TO RON PETERSON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today and pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of Ohio. After 30 years of dedicated service delivering the U.S. mail in Port Clinton, Ohio, Letter Carrier Ron "Pete" Peterson is hanging up the mail bag for good. I am especially thankful for Ron's dedication because he has been delivering to my family and friends along Sand Road for almost 28 of his 30 years.

We have often heard that America works because of the unselfish contributions of her citizens. Ron is an Air Force veteran, serving for 7 years. He has continued this service for his country through the United States Postal Service. Over the years, Ron has set the standard for dedication to duty and he is an example to others.

Anyone who knows Ron Peterson knows he is an avid fan of the Buckeyes, Indians, and Cavaliers. His enthusiasm for sports is matched by his knowledge and appreciation of jazz music. He has been extremely helpful to scores of colleagues and residents alike and has always provided positive leadership for the Post Office.

Sometimes the only compensation you get for the extra time and effort put into your career is the thanks and appreciation you receive from the community. By that standard, Ron Peterson is indeed a wealthy man. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending a special thanks to Ron Peterson and recognize the example he has set for others. I know his friends and family are proud of his career and wish him well as he enters this new chapter of his life.

FUNDRAISER ADMITS MIS- HANDLING OF ILLEGAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS FOR INDIAN EMBASSY

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 9, 1996, the Baltimore Sun ran an article reporting that Lalit H. Gadhia, a major political